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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:

CHRISTOPHER SCOTT STENTA

CASE NO.: AD6647 US NA

SERIAL NO.: 09/703,425

GROUP ART UNIT: 2834

FILED: NOVEMBER 1, 2000

EXAMINER: DANG D. LE

FOR: BEARING SYSTEM WITH FLEXIBLE
BEARING BRACKETAMENDMENTAssistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 20, 2001, please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 18, replace the Abstract with the following:

a¹ (Amended) A bearing system that includes a bearing 50 supported in a flexible bearing bracket, for example for use in fractional horsepower shaded pole type electric motors. The bearing system is self aligning, the bracket being able to deflect to compensate for deviations in the radial alignment of the rotor shaft. A rotation lock restrains the bearing against rotation within the bracket. In the preferred embodiment the bracket is composed of an elastomer and the bearing is composed of a high performance plastic polymer, so that the bearing system is non-lubricating.

IN THE CLAIMS:

a² 1. (Amended) A bearing system for use with a motor having a rotor shaft and a rotor rotating within an opening through a stator, comprising a bearing bracket having at least a portion composed of an elastomeric material comprising a receptacle surrounding a bearing and supporting the bearing in fixed relation to the bracket, wherein the bracket is adapted to be mounted on the motor such that the opening in the bearing is disposed in the vicinity of an axis of the rotor shaft, and wherein the bracket is sufficiently flexible that the rotor shaft can deflect the bracket so that the bearing moves into alignment with an axis of the rotating shaft but the bracket is sufficiently rigid that the rotor is maintained in spaced relation from the stator during operation of the motor.